

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

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CINCPAC

UNCLAS STATE 053683

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, MILI, TH, US

SUBJECT: MAC CHANNEL FLIGHT TO THAILAND

REF: BANGKOK 5141

THE FOLLOWING Q & A WAS PREPARED FOR THE MARCH 10 NOON

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BRIEFING. THERE WERE, HOWEVER, NO QUESTIONS AND THE
GUIDANCE WAS NOT USED.

BEGIN TEXT

QUESTION: AP REPORTS THAT U.S. MILITARY SUPPLY FLIGHTS
TO THAILAND WILL RESUME SOON. IS THIS TRUE?

ANSWER: UNTIL THE TERMINATION OF THE U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE IN THAILAND ON JULY 20, 1976, U.S. MILITARY SUPPLY FLIGHTS REGULARLY TRANSPORTED MILITARY ASSISTANCE CARGO. SINCE THAT DATE, THE THAI RELIED ON A COMBINATION OF COMMERCIAL AIR AND SEA TRANSPORT. THEY ARE NOW EXPERIENCING SERIOUS DELAYS AND BOTTLENECKS IN THE DELIVERIES OF DEFENSE ARTICLES. THE THAI MILITARY HAVE, THEREFORE, REQUESTED THAT U.S. MILITARY SUPPLY FLIGHTS RESUME. WE HAVE AGREED TO A TEMPORARY RESUMPTION OF THESE FLIGHTS.

QUESTION: ARE THE THAI EXPERIENCING GREATER PROBLEMS WITH THE INSURGENCY?

ANSWER: AS FAR AS WE KNOW, THERE IS NO MAJOR CHANGE IN THE LEVEL OF FIGHTING. HOWEVER, THE MILITARY CONTINUES TO NEED SUPPLIES.

QUESTION: HOW LONG IS "TEMPORARY" AND HOW MANY FLIGHTS WILL BE MADE?

ANSWER: THE FLIGHTS WILL AVERAGE ABOUT TWO PER MONTH. OUR MILITARY ASSISTANCE ADVISORY GROUP IN BANGKOK WILL BE ASSISTING THE THAI IN ARRANGING A MORE EFFICIENT COMMERCIAL DELIVERY SYSTEM AND THE EARLIEST PHASEOUT OF U.S. MILITARY SUPPLY FLIGHTS.

QUESTION: ARE THESE FLIGHTS A PRELUDE TO A NEW U.S. UNCLASSIFIED

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MILITARY BUILD-UP IN THAILAND?

ANSWER: NO. THESE FLIGHTS ARE A PART OF OUR CONTINUING MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO THAILAND. THE SUPPLY FLIGHTS WILL USE THE BANGKOK COMMERCIAL AIRPORT AND WILL NOT REQUIRE ANY ADDITIONAL U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL. AIRCRAFT SERVICING AND UNLOADING WILL BE CONTRACTED AT DON MUANG AIRPORT.

QUESTION: HOW LARGE IS THE U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO THAILAND AND THE MAAG?

ANSWER: IN FY 77, THE U.S. IS PROVIDING 16 MILLION DOLLARS IN GRANT MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND 30 MILLION DOLLARS IN FOREIGN MILITARY SALES FINANCING. THE MAAG IN THAILAND CONSISTS OF APPROXIMATELY 117 U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL. END TEXT.
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